

## REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by March 8, 2007.

Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 15-17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,414,260 to Vogt. Claims 15-17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Vogt.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5, 7-14, and 20. The Applicants also wish to note that in the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner did not specify claim 20 as allowable; however, since claim 20 depends from allowable claim 1, it also should have been listed as an allowable claim.

In the present amendment, independent claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define the connecting element of the claimed holding device, specifically, by incorporating the limitations of claim 1 that were indicated to be allowable on page 5 of the outstanding Office Action: *"wherein the connecting element is formed as a clamping element which is connectable with the electrode arm so that it fixes the electrode in a clamping seat, wherein outer contours of the clamping element and sensor are formed to correspond with an outer contour*

*of the electrode arm, so that after assembly, the clamping element, the sensor, and the electrode arm together produce a stepless outer contour”.*

Because claim 15 now includes features defining the connecting element that have been indicated as allowable over the art of record, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-19 and 21 also now stand in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 15-19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss any remaining matters that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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